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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: November 30, 2022
CLIFF: 285524

PREPARED FOR: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister – **FOR DECISION**

SUBJECT: Supports for B.C. School Food Programs

PURPOSE: Approval requested for direct award contract

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministers of Education and Child Care and Agriculture and Food (AF) share a mandate letter commitment to help make sure students are properly fed for learning by working with school districts (SDs) to develop and expand school food programs and integrate local and B.C. foods.
- To help fulfill this mandate, staff are seeking approval to direct award a contract to University of BC (UBC) to gather information and complete early implementation actions in preparation for possible additional school food programming direction in Budget 2023.

DISCUSSION:

- School districts have identified the top barriers to implement school food programs are consistent funding and dedicated staffing in addition to other challenges related to access, capacity and infrastructure and require a tailored approach to programming in each school.
- A key element of the School Food Programs Framework is providing school districts with supports and resources to increase their capacity for school food program delivery.
- Staff seek approval to directly award a \$30,000 contract to UBC. UBC has a subject matter expert on school food program evaluation who can develop key performance indicators to evaluate the impact of government investment in school food programs. The subject matter expert also has experience working with Indigenous communities in B.C.
- UBC is uniquely positioned to achieve the contract deliverables on or before March 31, 2023 based on their expertise in evaluation and research on B.C. school food programs and understanding of Indigenous relations in B.C.
- The government's Core Policy and Procedures Manual (CPPM) allows for direct awards to other government organizations.
- Deliverables include:
 - Staged evaluation framework, based on evidence and research, to measure the state of readiness of school districts to develop or enhance school food programming ongoing impact and outcomes on student health and academic performance, and progress towards a universally accessible program,
 - List of recommended school food program evaluation criteria to determine readiness and progress of schools along a maturity curve based on a jurisdictional and research scan with supporting references included (i.e., where the recommendations were sourced from),

- Gap analysis comparing the recommended criteria from the literature and data collected by ECC,
- Recommendations of additional/alternate questions which will be included in a future school survey in school/district reporting to address this data gap.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Directly award a contract to UBC to develop an evaluation framework and evaluation criteria for the BC school food program.

- **Pros:** Supports the Ministry mandate and provides guidance and support to school districts in the creation of local food programs. Government policy permits direct awards to other government organizations.
- **Cons:** Directly awarding the contract limits the opportunity for other potential vendors to be considered for this work.

Option 2: Do not engage in the work

- **Pros:** No additional costs or impacts on business.
- **Cons:** Does not support the Ministry mandate or provide any guidance to school districts to support the creation of local food programs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funds for the UBC agreement will be allocated from the System Liaison and Supports Division budget for 2022/23.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS:

No financial implications.

LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:

Ministries of Agriculture and Food, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Health.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option: 1



December 13, 2022

Approved/Not Approved
Christina Zacharuk
Deputy Minister

Date Signed

Program ADM/Branch: Jennifer McCrea/System Liaison and Supports Division
Program Contact (for content): Erin Oscienny, Strategic Priorities
Drafter: Kara Freeborn/Cara Williams
Date: November 22, 2022

